

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, EAIR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: CYPRIOT COMPLAINTS ABOUT AERO-AMERICA AND
TURKISH CYPRIOT VISITORS

REF: (A) STATE 204063 (B) STATE 17825 (C) NICOSIA 2169

1. DURING AUGUST 25 MEETING WITH EUR
WHICH COVERED UN ISSUES (REFTEL A), CYPRUS AMBASSADOR
DIMITRIOU ALSO RAISED (1) PROBLEM OF U.S. AIR-CRAFT FLYING
FOR TURKS TO NORTHERN CYPRUS AND (2) TURKISH CYPRIOT
VISITORS TO U.S.

2. WITH REGARD TO FIRST SUBJECT, DEPT OFFICER TOLD
DIMITRIOU THAT AERO-AMERICA WAS A REPUTABLE U.S. FIRM AND
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AND HAD NO CONNECTIONS WHATSOEVER WITH AIR AMERICA. AERO-
AMERICA'S WET LEASE WITH TURKISH AUTHORITIES DID NOT REQUIRE
USG APPROVAL, BUT INVESTIGATION OF CARRIERS' COMPLIANCE
WITH FAA REGULATIONS WAS CONTINUING (FYI: USG CANNOT RE-
QUIRE AERO-AMERICA TO WITHDRAW FROM CONTRACT UNLESS THERE
IS A VIOLATION OF FAA REGULATIONS. WE INTEND TO ASK AERO-
AMERICA VOLUNTARILY NOT TO RENEW ITS CURRENT SHORT-TERM

CONTRACT. THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO ACTIVELY CONSIDERING REQUESTING THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TO PUBLISH A

NOTICE TO AIRMEN (NOTAM) REQUIRING U.S.-REGISTERED AIRCRAFT TO AVOID ENTERING THE AIRSPACE IN THE VICINITY OF NORTHERN CYPRUS KNOWN AS THE ERCAN AIR TRAFFIC ADVISORY AREA. THIS IS A MEASURE THAT COULD AFFECT NUMEROUS AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS, PERHAPS COMPLICATE ACCESS BY U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO ADANA AIRBASE, AND OBSTRUCT THE OCCASIONAL "MERCY" FLIGHT SEEKING TO LAND WITHIN THE "TFSC" FOR LEGITIMATE HUMANITARIAN REASONS. CONSEQUENTLY, LESS RESTRICTIVE NOTAMS WHICH WOULD BE GENERALLY PROHIBITIVE, BUT WHICH WOULD ALLOW U.S.-REGISTERED AIRCRAFT SOME LATITUDE, ARE ALSO UNDER CONSIDERATION. DEPT WOULD WELCOME EMB VIEWS REGARDING THIS STEP. WE WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT. END FYI)

3. WITH REFERENCE TO TURKISH CYPRIOT VISITORS, DEPT. OFFICERS REVIEWED ATAKOL CASE ALONG LINES ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST HAD FOLLOWED IN JULY (REF B). DIMITRIOU WAS ASSURED THAT DEPARTMENT IN FUTURE WOULD MAKE GREATER EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE POLITICAL LOBBYING BY TURKISH CYPRIOT VISITORS, BUT HE WAS GIVEN NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT WE WOULD STOP INVITATIONS TO TURKISH CYPRIOTS. CHRISTOHER

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